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DATA ON CAREER OF GEN RAJENDRA SINGHJI,
NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF INDIAN ARMY

Gen Maharaj Rajendra Singhji [his name is given as Rajendrasinghji in the 1951 Indian and Pakistan Yearbook] was commissioned in 1921. He joined the Second Royal Lancers in 1922.

In 1941, he was awarded the DSO for gallantry in action against the Germans in North Africa. The citation states that Singhji, as squadron commander, successfully withdrew two squadrons from encirclement by German and Italian forces in the campaign at Mecholi [El Mechili?].

He returned to India in October 1941. In 1942, he was sent to the Indian Embassy in Washington as deputy director of public relations. During his tour, he visited various US military training centers. He returned to India in 1943 and became commandant of the Second Royal Lancers. In 1945, he was detailed once more to Washington in the capacity of first military attaché of the Indian Embassy.

In 1946, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and was given command of the Piska area. In June 1947, he became director of the Indian Armored Corps with headquarters in New Delhi.

After the partition of India and Pakistan in August 1947, Singhji was promoted to major general and became commanding general of the Delhi and Punjab Command. Later, he succeeded General Cariappa as commanding general of the Eastern Command. Still later, he was sent to Poona to take over the Southern Command. From this headquarters, he directed the operations of the Hyderabad Police Action of September 1948.

General Singhji succeeded General K. M. Cariappa as Commander in Chief of the Indian Army at ceremonies held in New Delhi on 15 January 1953.

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